

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 00856 131531Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
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S E C R E T AMMAN 0856

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR MASS JO US OVIP (SECRETARY CYRUS VANCE)
SUBJ: TALK WITH CROWN PRINCE HASSAN

1. CROWN PRINCE ASKED TO SEE ME TODAY IN THE MAIN ABOUT
YARMOUK WATER RIGHTS ISSUE (SEPTTEL).

2. HE TOLD ME THAT KING WAS TAKING THE RECENT TRAGEDY
WITH A MOOD OF DETERMINATION AND AT THE SAME TIME HE WAS
ALSO STILL VERY HARD HIT EMOTIONALLY. HASSAN SAID HE
HOPED TO GET KING TO TAKE SOME TIME OFF, PERHAPS IN IRAN.
WE BOTH AGREED THAT KING ALSO NEEDS WORK AND INVOLVEMENT
AS A MEANS OF RECOVERING HIS BALANCE. HASSAN SAYS THAT
MANY "FOOLS" IN JORDAN ARE TRYING TO PLAY TO KING'S
LEGITIMATE EMOTIONS FOR PERSONAL GAIN. THIS IS A DEVELOP-
MENT WHICH HE NATURALLY DEPLORES AND LACK OF CETAINTY
OVER CRASH HAS PRODUCED A SERIES OF WILD RUMORS ON THE
CAUSES OF THE CRASH (SOME OF WHICH WE HAVE HEARD),
INCLUDING SOME WHICH BLAME QUEEN MOTHER AND HASSAN
FOR QUEEN'S ACCIDENTAL DEATH.

3. ON THE SECRETARY'S TRIP, HASSAN TOLD ME THAT
KING WILL PROBABLY WISH TO RAISE QUESTION OF CREATING
A SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FUND IN THE UNITED STATES FOR
JORDANIAN CHILDREN IN QUEEN'S MEMORY AND MIGHT RAISE
SECRET

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THIS IDEA PERSONALLY WITH THE SECRETARY. THE QUEEN,
A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE ACCIDENT, SOUGHT ME OUT AT THE
PALACE WHEN I WAS WAITING TO SEE KING HUSSEIN. SHE
TOLD ME IN SOME DETAIL IN A LONG CONVERSATION OF HER
INTEREST IN THE PROJECT AND HER HOPE TO GIVE A NUMBER
OF SPEECHES IN THE US DURING KING'S PLANNED SPRING
VISIT WITH THIS IN MIND. I TOLD HER I SUPPORTED THE

IDEA. ALSO I ENCOURAGED HER TO THINK ABOUT WORKING OUT A CAREFUL OVERALL PLAN FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT FOR NEEDY CHILDREN AS A BASIS FOR HER INTENDED EFFORTS. SHE APPEARED TO HAVE ACCEPTED THE NEED TO DO SO. SHE ALSO HAD CONTACTED HASSAN FOR HELP AND HE HAD GIVEN HER THE SAME ADVICE. HASSAN IS WORRIED THAT THE KING'S EMOTIONAL STATE AND SENTIMENT WILL CAUSE HIM TO TRY TO COMPLETE EVERYTHING THAT QUEEN ALIA HAD THOUGHT OF WITHOUT MUCH PLANNING. I TOLD HASSAN THAT, IF OUT OF THIS TRAGEDY, THE KING'S ATTENTION WAS TURNED IN THIS DIRECTION, THEN IT COULD WELL HELP IN EVOLVING A PLANNED AND WELL THOUGHT OUT APPROACH TO HANDLING THE SERIOUS NEEDS OF CHILDREN IN JORDAN. HASSAN AGREED.

4. I TOLD HIM THAT IF THE KING RAISED THIS QUESTION WITH THE SECRETARY, I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE SECRETARY TELL THE KING THAT HE UNDERSTANDS THERE IS A GREAT NEED IN JORDAN FOR THIS KIND OF ACTIVITY. THE AMERICAN PUBLIC WOULD RESPOND BEST IF IT UNDERSTOOD WHAT WAS REQUIRED IN SOME DETAIL IN THE CONTEXT OF A WELL THOUGHT OUT PLAN FOR THE COUNTRY FOR THE FUTURE. WE MIGHT ALSO CONSIDER OFFERING OUR HELP THROUGH AID TO DEVELOP A BASIC PLAN IN THE AREA OF SOCIAL WELFARE, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON CHILDREN, SIMILAR TO WHAT WE ARE DOING NOW IN THE HEALTH AREA. INDEED THE LATTER PLAN FOCUSES HEAVILY ON THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES TO MOTHERS AND CHILDREN. PICKERING

SECRET

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